

49618. Tirunelveli Dt.: Calcad hills, *Beddome? s.n.* (acc. no. 20811); Tinnevely, *Beddome s.n.* (sec. nos. 20812-14 & 85664); Oothu, 1-9-1963, *Henry 17410*.

*Distribution:* South India (Kanyakumari & Tirunelveli Dts. of Tamil Nadu).

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20. NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF A FEW INDIAN GRASSES

Hitherto *Indochloa clarkii* (Hack.) Bor. (Panicoidae-Andropogoneae) was considered to be endemic in the Paresnath hills, Bihar. The present paper reports its occurrence on the plateau of Madhya Pradesh for the first time. This shows that it is a rare grass but not with a restricted distribution.

***Indochloa clarkii*** (Hack.) Bor in Kew Bull. 1954: 76, 1954.

(Panicoidae—Andropogoneae, Poaceae)

Hooker (Flora of British India 7: 197. 1897) recorded this taxon under *Andropogon clarkii* Hack. and Haines (Bot. Bihar & Orissa 1040. 1924) placed it under *Dicanthium clarkii* (Hack.) Haines. Both the authors reported the species from the top of Paresnath hill. This report from Sonmuda, Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh, 5-11-1970, *G. Panigrahi* 13333 (BSA), is an extension of the range of the species northwards.

As such it appears to extend its range under favourable environments into the adjoining hilly regions. The Collector records: "rooting in black mud along Son River stream. A large number of branches from lower internodes. Inflorescence with chocolate coloured awns. Seen only here. Very light grass. Rare." However, examinations of the available materials

in (CAL) reveal: that the glabrous stems, leaves glabrous, except the margin, young leaves, matured pedicels and neuter spikelets, reddish brown, and fertile ones villose, help to identify the taxon in the field.

***Polyogon monspeliensis*** (Linn.) Desf. (Poaideae-Agrostideae)—This grass has been known for a long time from North Western Himalayas, the Upper Gangetic Plains, Bihar and Madras as a winter annual. The winter in the Upper Gangetic Plains is very severe. Grows as a bushy grass in low lying marshy lands at different localities of Howrah district in West Bengal. It appears that this grass has successfully invaded the Lower Gangetic Plains of India at its eastern most extension.

***Polyogon monspeliensis*** (Linn.) Desf. Fl. Allant. 1: 64. 1789.—*Alopecurus monspeliensis* Linn. Sp. Pl. ed. 1, 61. 1753. Tufted annuals. Panicles spiciform oblong or cylindrical; glumes oblong, scaberulous ciliolate, tip deeply notched; awn from the sinus or beneath it, 5-9.8 mm long, 2-3 times the length of the glumes.

INDIA: West Bengal, Howrah district. Thanamakua, *A. K. Naskar* s.n., collected on 12-8-72 (CAL): Andul Road, West Bengal, Near Damodar Valley Corp., Feb. '72,

Growing on moist situations, *R. B. Mazumdar* 1; 2, 3 (CAL)

***Rhynchelytrum villosum*** (Parl.) Chiov. in Ann. 1st Bot. Roma 8: 310, 1908, (Panicoidae—Paniceae, Poaceae). This grass is reported here from West Bengal for the first time. During the identification of earlier collection, we located specimens collected from the slope facing the river Hooghly, IBG Head Office Ghat, (Opp. to old herbarium building), Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah (*H. P. Nas- kar* 1 on 15-3-1949,; CAL). It is an erect herb with scabrid leaf sheaths; pedicels of the spikelets not hairy. Glume I, linear-oblong, obtuse, minute. Glume IV thin, 0.8 mm, below the upper, bearded at the base, glabre-

scent upwards. It occurs on sandy loam soil. A scrutiny of available literature as well as herbarium specimens in the Central National Herbarium, Howrah, (CAL), revealed that this species has been collected from Badami also (*A. Meebold* 11215, Sept. 1910, CAL). The range of the species extends to Tropical Africa. Bor (Grasses of India, Burma & Ceylon: 355, 1960) reports it from Punjab and Rajputana. Thus the present report establishes the continuity of the distribution from Northwestern and Peninsular India.

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